PRESBYTERIAN LINK

November-December 2026 No 187

The Monthly Newsletter of the Timaru Presbyterian Parish





Christmas Spirit

As part of Girls' Brigade end of year we drop off little gifts into letterboxes around Timaru, we also gave Hospice some jelly's and biscuits.

Fiona



Brent received a lovely phone call from one of the recipients who lives in the Napier Street flats. She was thrilled to receive the gift which really brightened her day.

Church notices







Some photos from the Farewell Luncheon for Christine and Murray Facer, a kind, thoughtful and wonderful couple who have been a treasured part of the church family, and are now moving to Christchurch.

Editorial



Welcome to this edition of the LINK.

As I write this it is at the very end of the election season, with just 2 days to go before voting concludes in the NZ Parliamentary elections which will determine the next government. As the polls stand, the results are anyone's guess. And by the time you read this, well after the final votes have been counted, it may still be anyone's guess as the parties negotiate and try to form a government. Such is the MMP system!

I've been following with interest the American Mid-term elections for Congress and Senate, and these have yielded the predicted result of a 'Blue Wave' handing control of both houses to the Democratic party. Normally I wouldn't be that interested in American politics but the surprising and shocking re-election of Donald Trump 2 years ago and the surrender of congress to his will has made this election particularly interesting. Would the polls get it wrong as they have in the past? Would there be attempts to discredit or overthrow the results? Would democracy hold or would the greatest democracy on earth slide towards authoritarianism? (Ok, that might be a bit dramatic, but people have been thinking it).

I will continue to watch with interest especially how Donald Trump's agenda might be kept in check by an emboldened congress and whether they can deliver better results for the ordinary folk and maybe stop the war in Iran that affects us all.

Whatever you may think of politics, whether you tune out or are fully engaged, whether 'your side' was successful or not, I think we can all be thankful that we live in a country where we get to have a say. Our political leaders must make some effort every 3 years to re-apply for their jobs. This accountability to the people helps ensure- although imperfectly- that our laws, policies and priorities are pursued in the interest of the whole country. If not, our political leaders can- and should- be rejected.

I'm encouraged by the US mid-term elections; perhaps the rumours of the death of democracy have been exaggerated.

Nga mihi nui, Brent

Parish Council Report.

Brent shared the devotion from Exodus 17:
This follows the lectionary reading for this week.
The Israelites have been reduced from slavery, but water is becoming scarce. God provides water from the rock.
The author of Exodus mentioned several times how often the people were complaining, seemingly to forget what God has provided in the past.
They were questioning, "Is the Lord amongst us?
There was a discussion about where we find refreshment and a reminder that the Lord is indeed among us!

News from the meeting:

Trinity:

•Work on the drainage and dampness issues at Trinity Community centre is progressing slowly.

St Stephens:

•The new office windows have now been installed at St Stephen's.

•New shade blinds and curtains for the offices and some church windows are being actioned.

•Solar panels: All the panels have been ordered, consents have been completed. Work has been done to strengthen the roof.

•Work on the panels is planned to begin in December.

•A donated TV has been installed at the back of the church. This will assist those at the front to be able to see what is on the monitor screen during the service.

•Manse driveway. An old pipe under the driveway is leaking. It has been repaired over the last few years but now is in a state that it urgently needs to be replaced. It will cost around $9500 to replace the pipe. It will be funded from the Manse maintenance fund.

Accounts:

•Plant Sale has raised nearly $6000 - well done to all those involved.

•The bucket mission raised $344 for the Cancer Society

•Parish received a Draft Financial Performance report for the Year ended 30 June 2026 and approved this.

Pastoral Elder

Lois our Pastoral Elder shared her report. She has been visiting in the parish and in Pleasant Point. The roll is continuing to be updated.
A lunch is being organised to farewell the Facers and celebrate 10 years of Brent's ministry. This will be held on 8th November at St Stephens.

Wayfinder:

Steve McCoy shared his monthly report with the council. Steve has

attended an Alpine Presbytery Hui, regional Presbytery meetings and events in the Timaru and Temuka area.
Steve regularly attends St Stephen's and Trinity Temuka.
He receives support from a support team with members from each parish and Alpine Presbytery.
"This first month has confirmed that Wayfinding is not a programme but a posture - a way of moving through our communities with attentiveness, humility and hope. Like the navigators of old who read the winds, currents and signs of creation, we are learning to read the movements of the Spirit in neighbourhood conversations, and undetected encounters. Wayfinding is slow, relational and Spirit-led. It is about noticing where God is already present, lining that work gently, and trusting that each small step contributes to the larger journey God is shaping among us." Steve McCoy

Upcoming Worship services

AGM after service on 29 November St Stephens
Stir up Sunday service 6 December at Trinity
Christmas Eve service - details to be confirmed
Christmas Day service will be held at Trinity at 10am

Community Services:

18 December TCMA carol service at the Basilica 7pm

Steph

Resourcing for Others.

Our little group met at the beginning of this month to organise Bucket Mission topics and our Christmas plans.

The Harvest Table is about to start again (15/11) and we hope you will support it again, as you have done in previous years. We decided to on a slightly later "start up" date giving your seedlings a little more growing time. The funds raised at the November Harvest Table will be added to those of the current Bucket Mission which is - Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The December Bucket Mission recipient will be for the Local Community Christmas lunch held in the Bay Hall.

Towards the end of November there will be two labelled and decorated boxes in the St.Stephen's foyer - one for toiletries and gifts, and the other box is for used Board and Card games (that are complete), and are in good condition. Both of these collections will go to the Women's Refuge.

The postage for the collection of Christmas Boxes that Janie promoted so well, came out of the money allotted to the Resourcing for Others Group in our last budget.

Recently we received a letter from Christian World Service thanking us for our donation of $386.40 to the Nepal Flash Flood Appeal.

They say, " Our trusted local partners who have built strong networks over decades are especially skilled in getting help to the most vulnerable, giving them the skills and support they need. When disaster strikes, we often work through ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), of which we are a member."

Because of the forthcoming AGM (29/11.) Stir Up Sunday has been moved to the following week (6/12) when will make our delicious Christmas cake. Last year we served the cake on two ornamental silver platters with filigree edgings. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?
One was a presentation gift, and I would really like it back. Is it in the back of your cupboard?

Elaine.

Important dates to remember:

Weekly Prayer Meetings for about 30 minutes)
Sundays 9am in the Chapel
Tuesdays 9am Room 2, Trinity Community Centre

AGM 29 November

For other important information of what's happening including
Church services see pages 8 & 9

Where heart meets home

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enliven Retirement Villages

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pssc.co.nz

WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

Type **Timaru Presbyterian Parish** in the YouTube Search bar.

15 November	9.00am 10.00am	Journey 21 C-Bay car park Worship @St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd
22 November	10.00am	Worship & Communion@St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
29 November	10.00am	Worship @St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd AGM to follow service
6 December	10.00am	Worship @Trinity, 22 College Road. Stir-up Sunday
13 December	10.00am	Worship @St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road Bucket Mission Shared lunch

TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

Youth & Children's Events:

Boys' Brigade
6.00pm - 7.30pm Mondays at 22 College Rd
Contact : Fiona 688-0375 or 021-1702930

Rhythm Kids:
Trinity Hall, College Rd.
Contact: Helen 021 768 973

Girls' Brigade
5.30pm - 7.00pm Tuesdays at 22 College Rd
Contact : Fiona 688 0375 or 021 170 2930

TP Kids Playgroup:
Trinity Hall, College Rd.
Contact: Helen 021 768 973

TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

Regular Events:

Prayer Group: Tuesday 9.00am, College Rd, Brent 686-1382

Community Club: Tuesdays, 1.00-3.30pm at Wai-iti Rd

Yoga for Seniors on chairs:
2pm on Thurs in the hall at Trinity Community Centre. This 'not on the floor' exercise programme is for men and women. $3 per session. Would you like to attend these classes? Or for more information, please contact Helen 021 768 973

Coming Up:

The Community Club: Tuesdays, 1.00-3.30pm at St Stephens for Cards 500. New members welcome. Contact: Marian ph 684 4351
Dorothy ph 686 2265

Weekly Prayer Meetings (about 30 minutes)
Tuesdays 9am, Room 2, Trinity Community Centre
Sundays 9am, The Chapel

Journey 21: Meets at C-Bay carpark. 9am. 15 November.
The theme for November is 'Thank God for Evolution'
All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

Timaru Presbyterian Women Lunch Group:
The Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 18 November at Robert Harris Café Washdyke. Please note: it will be 12 oclock start **NOT** 12.30 as is usual.

Those wishing to attend make contact with Dianne or Dawn no later than Monday morning 16 November
Apologies/ rides call: Dianne 686 0440, Dawn 686 0595

A G M

Sunday 29th November
at St Stephens



Sunday 6th December at Trinity

TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Worship Centres
349 Wai-iti Rd, Glenwood, Timaru
22 College Rd, Timaru South
www.timarupres.org.nz

Parish Office

349 Wai-iti Rd Phone: 686-0981
email: oneoffice@timarupres.org.nz
Financial matters: finance@timarupres.org.nz
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 3pm
Closed 12-1pm

PARISH CONTACTS

Ministry Team Leader

Brent Richardson 686-1382, 0274221892 brent@timarupres.org.nz
Not available Fridays

Parish Clerk

Judith Begg 688-6004, parishclerk@timarupres.org.nz

LINK DEADLINE

Copy for the December-February LINK should be emailed to link@timarupres.org.nz or sent to the Church Office by Friday 4 December.

Do you or your loved one need a break over Christmas?



We are here to help

Caring for a loved one is one of the most important jobs you will do, but everyone needs support sometimes.

If you have allocated Respite Care or an approved Carer Support allocation you will be able to use your funding towards our services or you can private fund.

Why Choose Presbyterian Support South Canterbury?

For generations PSSC have been supporting older people and families throughout our community with compassion, dignity, and respect.

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Our Enliven Homes
The Croft, Margaret Wilson, Strathallan, Wallingford in Temuka

enliven
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT SOUTH CANTERBURY

rhythm kids
music and movements for 0-5 year olds

Tuesday Mornings 10 to 11am
Trinity Community Centre,
22 College Road
Gold Coin Donation
Morning Tea supplied for Adults.
Bring your own morning tea for your children
Come along for a fun time!

Contact: Helen Carter Ph 021 768 973



Boys' Brigade

As a conservation project Boys' Brigade potted up tomato plants to take home and grow.

Fiona





This issue of "PRESBYTERIAN LINK" is delivered to you

by..... Phone.....